



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447 · PRETORIA · 0001 · Fedsure Building · 315 Pretorius Street · PRETORIA
Tel (+ 27 12) 310 3911 · Fax (+ 2712) 322 2682

NEAS Reference: DEA/EIA/0000511/2011

DEA Reference: 12/12/20/2411

Enquiries: Lerato Mokoena

Telephone: 012-310-3137 **Fax:** 012-320-7539 **E-mail:** lmokoena@environment.gov.za

Ms Mmamoloko Seabe
Eskom Holdings SOC Limited
PO Box 1091
JOHANNESBURG
2000

Fax: (011) 800 3917

PER FACSIMILE / MAIL

Dear Ms Seabe

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998: GN R. 543, 544, 545 and 546: PROPOSED FOSKOR-MERENSKY 275KV POWER LINE AND ASSOCIATED SUBSTATION WORKS, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

With reference to the above application, please be advised that the Department has decided to grant authorisation. The environmental authorisation (EA) and reasons for the decision are attached herewith.

In terms of regulation 10(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010 (the Regulations), you are instructed to notify all registered interested and affected parties, in writing and within 12 (twelve) days of the date of the EA, of the Department's decision in respect of your application as well as the provisions regarding the submission of appeals that are contained in the Regulations.

Your attention is drawn to Chapter 7 of the Regulations, which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed. This procedure is summarised in the attached document. Kindly include a copy of this document with the letter of notification to interested and affected parties.

Should the applicant or any other party wish to appeal any aspect of the decision a notice of intention to appeal must be lodged by all prospective appellants with the Minister, within 20 days of the date of the EA, by means of one of the following methods:

- By facsimile: 012-320-7561;
- By post: Private Bag X447,
Pretoria, 0001; or
- By hand: 2nd Floor, Fedsure Building, North Tower,
Cnr. Lilian Ngoyi (Van der Walt) and Pretorius Streets,
Pretoria.

If the applicant wishes to lodge an appeal, it must also serve a copy of the notice of intention to appeal on all registered interested and affected parties as well as a notice indicating where, and for what period, the appeal submission will be available for inspection, should you intend to submit an appeal.

Please include the Department (*Attention: Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations*) in the list of interested and affected parties, notified through your notification letter to interested and affected parties, for record purposes.

Appeals must be submitted in writing to:

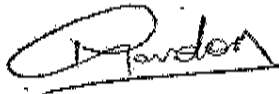
Mr Z Hassam Director: Appeals and Legal Review, of this Department at the above mentioned addresses or fax number. Mr Hassam can also be contacted at:

Tel: 012-310-3271

Email: AppealsDirectorate@environment.gov.za

The authorised activities shall not commence within twenty (20) days of the date of signature of the authorisation. Further, please note that the Minister may, on receipt of appeals against the authorisation or conditions thereof suspend the authorisation pending the outcome of the appeals procedure.

Yours sincerely



Mr Mark Gordon
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Environmental Affairs
 Date: 18.06.2013

CC:	Ms Munyadziwa Rikhots	Nsovo Environmental Consulting	Tel: 071 602 2369	Fax: 086 602 8821
	Mr Victor Mongwe	LDEDET	Tel: 015-293-8300	Fax: 015-293-8319
	Mr SB Gaglano	Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality	Tel: 015 780 6427	Fax: 015 780 6408
	Mr J Sekgobela	Greater Sekhukhune District Municipality	Tel: 013 231 1000	Fax: 0865012168
	Mr N Letsoalo	Fetakgomo Local Municipality	Tel: 015 622 8000	Fax: 015 622 8026
	Mr I Kanyane	Lepelle Nkumpi Local Municipality	Tel: 015 633 4500	Fax: 015 633 6896
	Ms T Tivani	Maruleng Local Municipality	Tel: 013 231 7815	Fax: 015 383 9944
	Mr S Malaza	Compliance Monitoring (DEA)	Tel: 012-310-3397	Fax: 012-320-5744

APPEALS PROCEDURE IN TERMS OF CHAPTER 7 OF THE NEMA EIA REGULATIONS, 2010 (THE REGULATIONS) AS PER GN R. 543 OF 2010 TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE APPLICANT AND INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES UPON RECEIPT OF NOTIFICATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION (EA)

APPLICANT	INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES (IAPs)
1. Receive EA from the relevant Competent Authority (the Department of Environmental Affairs [DEA]).	1. Receive EA from Applicant/Consultant.
2. Within 12 days of date of the EA notify all IAPs of the EA and draw their attention to their right to appeal against the EA in terms of Chapter 7 of the Regulations.	2. N/A.
3. If you want to appeal against the EA, submit a notice of intention to appeal within 20 days of the date of the EA with the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs (the Minister).	3. If you want to appeal against the EA, submit a notice of intention to appeal within 20 days of the date of the EA, with the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs (the Minister).
4. After having submitted your notice of intention to appeal to the Minister, provide each registered IAP with a copy of the notice of intention to appeal within 10 days of lodging the notice.	4. After having submitted your notice of intention to appeal to the Minister, provide the applicant with a copy of the notice of intention to appeal within 10 days of lodging the notice.
5. The Applicant must also serve on each IAP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a notice indicating where and for what period the appeal submission will be available for inspection. 	5. Appellant must also serve on the Applicant within 10 days of lodging the notice, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a notice indicating where and for what period the appeal submission will be available for inspection by the applicant.
6. The appeal must be submitted in writing to the Minister within 30 days after the lapsing of the period of 20 days provided for the lodging of the notice of intention to appeal.	6. The appeal must be submitted to the Minister within 30 days after the lapsing of the period of 20 days provided for the lodging of the notice of intention to appeal.
7. Any IAP who received a notice of intention to appeal may submit a responding statement to that appeal to the Minister within 30 days from the date that the appeal submission was lodged with the Minister.	7. An Applicant who received notice of intention to may submit a responding statement to the appeal to the Minister within 30 days from the date that the appeal submission was lodged with the Minister.

NOTES:

1. An appeal against a decision must be lodged with:-

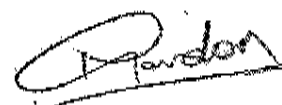
- the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs if the decision was issued by the Director- General of the Department of Environmental Affairs (or another official) acting in his/ her capacity as the delegated Competent Authority;
- the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development if the applicant is the Department of Water Affairs and the decision was issued by the Director- General of the Department of Environmental Affairs (or another official) acting in his/ her capacity as the delegated Competent Authority;

2. An appeal lodged with:-

- the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs must be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs;
- the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development must be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs;

3. An appeal must be:-

- submitted in writing;
- accompanied by:
 - a statement setting out the grounds of appeal;
 - supporting documentation which is referred to in the appeal; and
 - a statement that the appellant has complied with regulation 62 (2) or (3) together with copies of the notices referred to in regulation 62.





environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Environmental Authorisation

In terms of regulation 36 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010

Proposed Foskor-Merensky 275kV power line and associated substations works

Mopani District Municipality and Sekhukhune District Municipality

Authorisation register number:	12/12/20/2411
NEAS reference number:	DEA/EIA/0000511/2011
Last amended:	First issue
Holder of authorisation:	APPLICANT
Location of activity:	LIMPOPO PROVINCE: Within Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality, Maruleng Local Municipality, Fetakgomo Local Municipality, Greater Tubatse Local Municipality, Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality

This authorisation does not negate the holder of the authorisation's responsibility to comply with any other statutory requirements that may be applicable to the undertaking of the activity.

Decision

The Department is satisfied, on the basis of information available to it and subject to compliance with the conditions of this environmental authorisation, that the applicant should be authorised to undertake the activities specified below.

Non-compliance with a condition of this authorisation may result in criminal prosecution or other actions provided for in the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and the EIA regulations.

Details regarding the basis on which the Department reached this decision are set out in Annexure 1.

Activities authorised

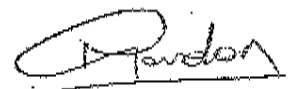
By virtue of the powers conferred on it by the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010 the Department hereby authorises –

ESKOM HOLDINGS SOC LIMITED

with the following contact details –


Ms Mmamoloko Seabe
Eskom Holdings SOC Limited
PO Box 1091
JOHANNESBURG
2000

Tel: (011) 800 2345
Fax: (011) 800 3917
E-mail: seabejm@eskom.co.za




to undertake the following activities (hereafter referred to as "the activity") Indicated in Listing Notices 1, 2 and 3 (GN R. 544, 545 & 546):

Listed activities		Activity/Project description
<p>GN R. 545 Item 8</p> <p>The construction of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity with a capacity of 275 kilovolts or more, outside an urban area or industrial complex.</p>		<p>The proposed power line has a voltage of 275kV and it is outside an urban area.</p>
<p>GN R. 544 Item 38</p> <p>The expansion of facilities for the transmission and distribution of electricity where the expanded capacity will exceed 275 kilovolts and the development footprint will increase.</p>		<p>The Foskor Substation will be extended in order to accommodate the new line and the footprint of the current substation will increase.</p>
<p>GN R. 544 Item 24</p> <p>The transformation of land bigger than 1000 square metres in size, to residential, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional use, where, at the time of the coming into effect of this Schedule such land was zoned open space, conservation or had an equivalent zoning.</p>		<p>Construction camps and site offices will be temporarily established in the study area.</p>
<p>GN R. 544 Item 26</p> <p>Any process or activity identified in terms of section 53(1) of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004).</p>		<p>Bush will be required for clearing for the positioning of the towers.</p>
<p>GN R. 546 Item 4</p> <p>The construction of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13.5 metres –</p> <p>a) In Limpopo:</p> <p>ii. Outside urban areas, in:</p> <p>(ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans</p> <p>(gg) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world</p>		<p>Additional access roads may be required for construction and maintenance purposes.</p>



Listed activities	Activity/Project description
<p>heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core area of a biosphere reserve;</p> <p>iii. In urban areas:</p> <p>(aa) Areas zoned for use as public open space;</p> <p>(bb) Areas designated for conservation use in Spatial Development Frameworks adopted by the competent authority or zoned for a conservation purpose.</p> <p>(aa)</p>	
<p>GN R. 546 Item 12</p> <p>The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of vegetation where 75% or more of the vegetative cover constitutes indigenous vegetation.</p> <p>(a) Within any critically endangered or endangered ecosystem listed in terms of section 52 of the NEMBA or prior to the publication of such a list, within an area that has been identified as critically endangered in the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment 2004;</p> <p>(b) Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans; Within the littoral active zone or 100 metres inland from high water mark of the sea or an estuary, whichever distance is the greater, excluding where such removal will occur behind the development setback line on erven in urban areas.</p>	<p>The construction phase will require construction camps and site offices, thus the need to clear vegetation for the establishment of these facilities.</p>
<p>GN R. 546 Item 19</p> <p>The widening of a road by more than 4 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre.</p> <p>(a) In Limpopo province:</p> <p>ii. Outside urban areas, in:</p> <p>(ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;</p> <p>(gg) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world</p>	<p>Where existing roads cannot be used, access roads for construction and maintenance may be required.</p>



Listed activities	Activity/Project description
heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core area of a biosphere reserve; iii. Inside urban areas: (aa) Areas zoned for use as public open space; (bb) Areas designated for conservation use in Spatial Development Frameworks adopted by the competent authority or zoned for a conservation purpose.	

as described in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) dated February 2012 at:

Route Corridor Alternative 5	Latitude	Longitude
(Bend Coordinates)	24°43'12.8"	30°13'16.3"
	24°42'39.9"	30°13'57.7"
	24°42'35.4"	30°14'34.8"
	24°41'45.2"	30°15'23.9"
	24°39'58.9"	30°16'39.4"
	24°39'40.6"	30°17'16.5"
	24°39'07.0"	30°17'27.9"
	24°36'40.4"	30°18'56.3"
	24°33'53.8"	30°24'25.7"
	24°33'04.9"	30°25'07.7"
	24°32'36.3"	30°26'30.8"
	24°33'04.4"	30°28'10.6"
	24°32'28.4"	30°33'10.5"
	24°32'00.1"	30°33'35.6"
	24°30'37.9"	30°35'49.2"
	24°28'59.8"	30°37'31.5"
	24°27'59.6"	30°37'51.1"
	24°26'42.7"	30°37'54.1"



	24°22'02.0"	30°39'13.9"
	24°18'30.6"	30°38'36.8"
	24°16'23.6"	30°42'18.7"
	24°11'29.5"	30°48'34.7"
	24°09'24.4"	30°49'54.6"
	24°07'19.8"	30°50'38.2"
	24°04'32.9"	30°54'30.9"
	24°02'02.8"	31°03'33.6"
	24°01'37.7"	31°07'38.2"

- for the proposed Foskor-Merensky 275kV power line and associated substations works, within BaPhalaborwa Local Municipality, Maruleng Local Municipality, Fetakgomo Local Municipality, Greater Tubatse Local Municipality, Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality in the Limpopo Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

The infrastructure associated with this facility includes:

Foskor MTS

- Extend the 275kV busbar 1 and 2 westwards by 4x feeder bays;
- Install a 3rd 250MVA 275/132kV transformer;
- Install and equip 1 x 275kV bus section;
- Install and equip 1 x 275kV bus coupler;
- Install and equip 1 x 275kV feeder bay for the proposed 2nd Merensky-Foskor 275kV power line;
- Extend the Foskor 132kV busbar westwards by 5 x feeder bays to create space for future feeder bays;
- Install and equip 1 x 132kV bus section 1;
- Install and equip 1 x 132kV bus coupler B;

Merensky MTS

- Establish a spare 275kV feeder bay to create space for the proposed 2nd Merensky-Foskor 275kV power line;
- Install and equip 1 x 275kV feeder bay for the proposed 2nd Merensky-Foskor 275kV power line;
- Acquire the servitude for the proposed 2nd Foskor-Merensky 275kV power line;
- Construct the 2nd Foskor-Merensky Kingbird 275kV power line;



- Equip and commission all new infrastructures with all associated primary and secondary plant equipment; and
- Upgrade the under-rated switchgear at Merensky Substation.

Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

Scope of authorisation

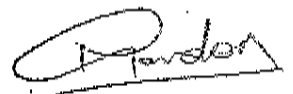
1. The preferred route corridor Alternative 5 is approved.
2. Authorisation of the activity is subject to the conditions contained in this authorisation, which form part of the environmental authorisation and are binding on the holder of the authorisation.
3. The holder of the authorisation is responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions contained in this environmental authorisation. This includes any person acting on the holder's behalf, including but not limited to, an agent, servant, contractor, sub-contractor, employee, consultant or person rendering a service to the holder of the authorisation.
4. The activities authorised may only be carried out at the property as described above.
5. Any changes to, or deviations from, the project description set out in this authorisation must be approved, in writing, by the Department before such changes or deviations may be effected. In assessing whether to grant such approval or not, the Department may request such information as it deems necessary to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations and it may be necessary for the holder of the authorisation to apply for further authorisation in terms of the regulations.
6. This activity must commence within a period of five (5) years from the date of issue of this authorisation. If commencement of the activity does not occur within that period, the authorisation lapses and a new application for environmental authorisation must be made in order for the activity to be undertaken.
7. Commencement with one activity listed in terms of this authorisation constitutes commencement of all authorised activities.
8. The holder of an environmental authorisation must notify the competent authority of any alienation, transfer and change of ownership rights in the property on which the activity is to take place.

Notification of authorisation and right to appeal

9. The holder of the authorisation must notify every registered interested and affected party, in writing and within 12 (twelve) calendar days of the date of this environmental authorisation, of the decision to authorise the activity.
10. The notification referred to must –
 - 10.1. specify the date on which the authorisation was issued;
 - 10.2. inform the interested and affected party of the appeal procedure provided for in Chapter 7 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010;
 - 10.3. advise the interested and affected party that a copy of the authorisation will be furnished on request; and
 - 10.4. give the reasons of the competent authority for the decision.
11. The holder of the authorisation must publish a notice –
 - 11.1. informing interested and affected parties of the decision;
 - 11.2. informing interested and affected parties where the decision can be accessed; and
 - 11.3. drawing the attention of interested and affected parties to the fact that an appeal may be lodged against this decision in the newspaper(s) contemplated and used in terms of regulation 54(2)(c) and (d) and which newspaper was used for the placing of advertisements as part of the public participation process.

Management of the activity

12. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) submitted as part of Application for EA must be amended and submitted to the Department for written approval prior to commencement of the activity.
13. The recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the EIR dated February 2013 must be incorporated as part of the EMPr.
14. The EMPr must include the final route overlaid on the site image and a route profile indicating all sensitive features or aspects (wetlands, rivers, ridges, heritage resources, vegetation including protected trees, communities etc.) which are to be avoided and those that could not be avoided. Once approved, the EMPr must be implemented and adhered to.



Monitoring

15. The applicant must appoint a suitably experienced independent Environmental Control Officer (ECO) for the construction phase of the development that will have the responsibility to ensure that the mitigation/rehabilitation measures and recommendations referred to in this authorisation are implemented and to ensure compliance with the provisions of the EMPr.
 - 15.1. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activity/ies.
 - 15.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
 - 15.3. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
 - 15.4. The ECO must remain employed until all rehabilitation measures, as required for implementation due to construction damage, are completed and the site is ready for operation.

Recording and reporting to the Department

16. All documentation e.g. audit/monitoring/compliance reports and notifications, required to be submitted to the Department in terms of this authorisation, must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* at the Department.
17. The holder of the authorisation must submit an environmental audit report to the Department within 30 days of completion of the construction phase (i.e. within 30 days of site handover) and within 30 days of completion of rehabilitation activities.
18. The environmental audit report must indicate the date of the audit, the name of the auditor and the outcome of the audit in terms of compliance with the environmental authorisation conditions as well as the requirements of the EMPr.
19. Records relating to monitoring and auditing must be kept on site and made available for inspection to any relevant and competent authority in respect of this development.

Commencement of the activity

20. The authorised activity shall not commence within twenty (20) days of the date of signature of the authorisation.
21. An appeal under section 43 of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), Act 107 of 1998 (as amended), does not suspend an environmental authorisation or exemption, or any provisions or conditions attached thereto, or any directive, unless the Minister, MEC or delegated organ of state directs otherwise.
22. Should you be notified by the Minister of a suspension of the authorisation pending appeal procedures, you may not commence with the activity until such time that the Minister allows you to commence with such an activity in writing.

Notification to authorities

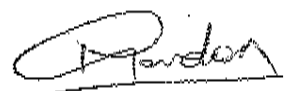
23. Fourteen (14) days written notice must be given to the Department that the activity will commence. Commencement for the purposes of this condition includes site preparation. The notice must include a date on which it is anticipated that the activity will commence, as well as a reference number. This notification period may coincide with the notice of intent to appeal period.

Operation of the activity

24. Fourteen (14) days written notice must be given to the Department that the activity operational phase will commence.

Site closure and decommissioning

25. Should the activity ever cease or become redundant, the applicant shall undertake the required actions as prescribed by legislation at the time and comply with all relevant legal requirements administered by any relevant and competent authority at that time.



Specific conditions

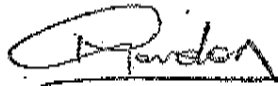
26. Liaison with land owners/farm managers/nature reserve managers must be done prior to construction in order to provide sufficient time for them to plan their activities.
27. A floral and faunal specialist should be present during the planning and pegging of the final route alignment to ensure that the positions of pylons result in minimum impacts on sensitive vegetation and protected trees.
28. Protected trees must not be cut or removed prior to a licence being obtained in line with the National Forests Act, 1998 (Act No. 84 of 1998) administered by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries.
29. A search and rescue operation for medical, Threatened or Protected Species (TOPS-listed species), protected trees, and red data species must be undertaken with assistance of a botanical and faunal specialist.
30. Only indigenous plants of the area must be utilised for rehabilitation purposes.
31. Anti-collision devices such as bird flappers must be installed where the power lines crosses avifaunal corridors. The fitting of the anti-collision devices onto specific sections of the line once the exact positions of the towers have been surveyed and pegged must be informed by the avifaunal specialist.
32. An avifaunal specialist must be commissioned to perform a final walkthrough of the site once the final route alignment and tower positions have been identified.
33. All graves found along the preferred route must be marked and demarcated as no go areas.
34. Pylons must not be erected within 32m of water bodies; i.e. rivers, channels, drainage lines, wetlands.
35. An integrated waste management approach must be implemented that is based on waste minimisation and must incorporate reduction, recycling, re-use and disposal.
36. Any solid waste shall be disposed of at a landfill licensed in terms of section 20 (b) of the National Environment Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act 59 of 2008).

General

37. A copy of this authorisation and the approved EMPr must be kept at the property where the activity/ will be undertaken. The authorisation and approved EMPr must be produced to any authorised

- official of the Department who requests to see it and must be made available for inspection by any employee or agent of the holder of the authorisation who works or undertakes work at the property.
38. The holder of the authorisation must notify both the *Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations* and the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* at the Department, in writing and within 48 (forty eight) hours, if any condition of this authorisation cannot be or is not adhered to. Any notification in terms of this condition must be accompanied by reasons for the non-compliance.
39. National government, provincial government, local authorities or committees appointed in terms of the conditions of this authorisation or any other public authority shall not be held responsible for any damages or losses suffered by the applicant or his successor in title in any instance where construction or operation subsequent to construction be temporarily or permanently stopped for reasons of non-compliance by the applicant with the conditions of authorisation as set out in this document or any other subsequent document emanating from these conditions of authorisation.

Date of environmental authorisation: 18.06.2013



Mr Mark Gordon
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Environmental Affairs

Annexure 1: Reasons for Decision

1. Information considered in making the decision

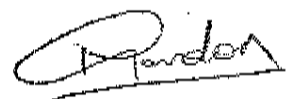
In reaching its decision, the Department took, *inter alia*, the following into consideration -

- a) The information contained in the EIR dated February 2012;
- b) The comments received from the organs of state and interested and affected parties as included in the EIR dated February 2012;
- c) Mitigation measures as proposed in the EIR dated February 2012 and the EMPr;
- d) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within Appendix D of the BAR; and
- e) The objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, including section 2 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998).

2. Key factors considered in making the decision

All information presented to the Department was taken into account in the Department's consideration of the application. A summary of the issues which, in the Department's view, were of the most significance is set out below.

- a) The findings of all the specialist studies conducted and their recommended mitigation measures.
- b) The need for the proposed project have been demonstrated;
- c) The EIR dated February 2012 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the EIR dated February 2012;
- d) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the EIR dated February 2012 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated;
- e) A sufficient public participation process was undertaken and the applicant has satisfied the minimum requirements as prescribed in the EIA Regulations, 2010 for public involvement.



3. Findings

After consideration of the information and factors listed above, the Department made the following findings -

- a) The identification and assessment of impacts are detailed in the EIR dated February 2012 and sufficient assessment of the key identified issues and impacts have been completed.
- b) The procedure followed for impact assessment is adequate for the decision-making process.
- c) The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
- d) The information contained in the EIR dated February 2012 is accurate and credible.
- e) EMP measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the BAR and will be implemented to manage the identified environmental impacts during the construction process.

In view of the above, the Department is satisfied that, subject to compliance with the conditions contained in the environmental authorisation, the proposed activity will not conflict with the general objectives of integrated environmental management laid down in Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and that any potentially detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the proposed activity can be mitigated to acceptable levels. The environmental authorisation is accordingly granted.

